

THE BASKET.

Vol. 1.

HADDONFIELD, N. J., DECEMBER 29, 1887.

No. 5.

J. VAN COURT, Publisher and Printer.

THEATRES.—A good deal of controversy has recently sprung up respecting the theatre and its tendencies. A New York clergyman, having a streak in his make-up not in accordance with his profession, has been speaking favorably of play-house exhibitions, and of their "healthful fun," etc. To this has been added the boldness or impudence of a young actress rising in the congregation at the close of a sermon in which the minister had criticised theatres and actors, and denounced the minister and his remarks, of which, however, he took but little notice. Exaggerated reports are circulated about her being cheered and flattered, and she has become a sort of heroine with some people. This incident and the "fun" of the cranky clergyman, who also speaks of their "reformation," has resulted in a grand boom for the theatres, of which the managers are said to be fully availing themselves.

On the other hand the opponents contend that the theatre is demoralizing and injurious to society generally, and especially to the religious element. They quote the following lines, written by Robert Pollock, a good many years ago, and contend that these institutions are no better now than they were then; and as to their "reformation," if any efforts have ever been made to reform them, they have all resulted in signal failures. The "church choir" dodge is easily fathomed. It is similar to the Sunday "sacred concerts" in the Park.

The Theatre was from the very first
The favorite haunt of sin; though honest men--
Some very honest, wise, and worthy men--
Maintained it might be turned to good account;
And so, perhaps, IT MIGHT, BUT NEVER WAS.
From first to last it was an evil place;
And now such things were acted there as make
The demons blush, and from the neighborhood
Angels and holy men, trembling, retired!

The Haddon Fire Company No. 1, of Haddonfield, auxiliary to the Firemen's Relief Association of the State, have recently erected a tower on their Hall, and placed a bell in it. The bell we are told weighs near a ton, and was in use formerly by the Philadelphia Fire Department. It is announced to make itself known by being rung on New Year's Eve. The company is negotiating for a new Hook and Ladder Truck, and say there is need of more fire-plugs, more hose, better equipments, etc. There are 65 active, and 80 contributing members. The bell cost \$100, and money has been raised for 500 feet of superior hose. Drill the third Thursday evening of each month. Newman Collins is the foreman, or principal director.

Wife to husband, whose loud snoring keeps her awake, "Charlie! Charlie! Do stop snoring! Turn over on your side." (Nudges him.) He grunts, turns on his side and continues to snore. Wife has a happy idea—remembers reading "How to prevent Snoring;" gives him a second nudge, and—"O, Charlie! if you would keep your mouth shut, you'd be all right." "And so would you!" came promptly from the half-a-sleep Charlie. (Grand tableau.)—Harper's Bazaar.

Regarding the use of Insect Powder, Professor Hilgard, of the University of California, states that, although the tent caterpillars were not affected by dry powdered buhach when it was blown upon them, yet if they received a sprinkling of a mixture of one pound of buhach in fifty gallons of water, they quickly perished. He advises its use in green-houses or other places infested by vermin, as it is harmless to plants, birds and animals.

An association calling itself "The King's Daughters," (pretty tall title,) recently assembled in Philadelphia. It was organized in 1886, and is now said to number nearly 10,000 women. The Advisory Board is in New York. Their Badge is a blue ribbon, and any woman in need of help, it is said, is privileged to accost the wearer, and her needs will receive attention.

A clerk in a mercantile house writes to his friends at home, "Very easy times now-a-days—very little work to do—our firm don't advertise."

CHARLES R. STEVENSON.

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117 Market street.

Camden, N. J.

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117 Market street, Camden, N. J.

Printed and Published semi-monthly by 2
J. VAN COURT,

BACK of Residence opposite Presbyterian Church,
HADDONFIELD, N. J., DECEMBER 30, 1887.

Terms--50 cents a year, or 25 cents for 6 months.

THAT 100 NAMES.

As stated in our last number, our subscription list is gradually growing, but there needs quite a number yet to make up the 100 names. Surely there must be at least that number of persons in a population of 2500 who are sufficiently interested to help sustain a newspaper in Haddonfield, even if it is a diminutive one. When the 100 names are obtained, it is the intention either to enlarge it, or to publish it weekly, or perhaps both. It is now issued twice a month,—25 cents for six months.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Inserted on liberal terms, one time or more, as may be agreed upon.

The "Basket," is issued twice a month at present, and we shall take it as a favor if any of our friends will send us items of news, notices, &c., of general interest.

WATER WORKS.—There have been reports that the water of the Haddonfield Water Works is not good or suitable for ordinary use, but we are assured by those who are well-posted on the subject, that it is of most excellent quality, being obtained from springs, and the property of its sources so protected as to secure the water from contamination. It has not been very extensively introduced as yet, owing to the fact that many of the residents have wells which yield water that is perfectly satisfactory. But as the town expands and grows older, the demand for it will gradually increase. We look upon it as a very valuable adjunct in case of fire.

We have seen an item stating that there is an Oil and Paint Works of Haddonfield, but we have no particulars. The office, it is said, is in Philadelphia.

It would be a good thing if we could have an improvement in our street lights. But there seems to be some difficulty in the way at present. We spent a couple of nights recently in the city, and it was really a pleasure to pass along the streets that were furnished with electric lights. It was so near an approach to day-light. Can't we have 'em?

We notice a nice board walk has been laid from the Town Hall to Lake avenue, and then on to Friends' Meeting House. This is a great comfort and accommodation for those who use that thoroughfare during the "muddy season."

It is reported that, though not as plethoric as the U. S. treasury, there is quite a nice little balance in our corporation treasury. Glad to hear it, as it indicates prosperity and a healthy financial condition.

The usual Sunday School festivals at this season of the year have been given by the different denominations, and the children have had their books and their candies—the books to make them wise and the candies to make them sweet, and so, we suppose, they'll all be very good till "next time."

The time of year has arrived when we may expect to hear of accidents, and in some cases, loss of life, by adventurers on unsafe ice. A party of young people of both sexes, on Christmas afternoon (Monday) thus ventured on the thinly formed ice on Evans' pond, when it gave way, precipitating them into the water, and, as we are told, there was considerable difficulty in rescuing some of them. But for the use of a lawn tennis net, which they happened to have with them, and an ice boat, the results might have been sad, as the water is said to be 8 or 10 feet deep.

IS IT FAIR?—When the ferry boats crossing the river are crowded, some are compelled to stand, including women in the cabin set apart for their own use, while men occupy their seats. Some complain of this, and say there is room in the men's cabin. True. But it is made so filthy with tobacco, that cleanly men avoid it. No well man, however, should occupy a seat in the ladies' cabin, whilst any woman is compelled to stand for the want of a seat.

We understand that the building next to the Town Hall, at present occupied by Mr. Pettibone as a stove store, is to be remodded, and fitted up as an armory for the use of the 6th regiment Gun Squad.

There have been quite a number of family and social gatherings in the town during the holidays. Among them we may mention Joseph Elfreth, Samuel Wilkins, Thomas Williams, and there may be others, who were surrounded with their children and grand-children, etc. The last named probably had the largest strictly family party, numbering, all told, including a good assortment of babies, twenty-one souls.

Mrs. Charles Hillman had a company of friends and acquaintances, but as we were not among the favored ones, having been forgotten perhaps in the list of invitations, we are unable to give particulars, further than to say that, as we learn, the company, among other enjoyments, were entertained by a magic lantern exhibition.

We understand that Mr. Samuel Wilkins is about retiring from business. He is to be congratulated that he has been sufficiently successful in business to allow him to retire with a competency to make him comfortable, and we hope happy, in his declining years.

Hollinshed & Toole had a fire in their store in Camden on Monday morning, a curtain having caught fire from a gas light. Damage about \$500. Mr. Hollinshed is a resident of Haddonfield.